

REMARKS

Claims 1-41 are pending in the above-identified patent application. By this Amendment Applicant has amended claims 1, 19 and 27 in order to further define the present invention.


The Abstract has been amended in response to the Examiner's objection to the Abstract set forth in the above Office Action. In particular, these amendments to the Abstract have shortened its length to 150 words or less.

Applicant is appreciative of the time taken by the Examiner to discuss the present application with the undersigned during a telephonic interview on March 16, 2004. During the interview the Examiner and the undersigned discussed various aspects of the claims and the nature of amendments to the claims which could result in the definition of potentially patentable subject matter. In particular, the Examiner directed attention to the subject matter defined by claim 8, and the Examiner and the undersigned discussed potential amendments to the pending claims in view of this subject matter.

In the above Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-41 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,911,143 issued to Deinhart et al. ("Deinhart") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,092,050 issued to Lungren et al ("Lungren").

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's full consideration of Applicant's arguments filed on October 10, and the Examiner's responses to those arguments set forth in the above Office Action. For the sake of brevity, Applicant does not again repeat each argument made in support of patentability of the pending claims previously set forth on October 10, 2003, but rather incorporates herein the portion of those arguments relevant to the pending claims and draws the Examiner's attention to the additional points below.

Applicant observes that each of the pending independent claims 1, 19 and 27 now lack recitations directed to "navigation among a plurality of data objects". As the Examiner appears to have relied upon the Lungren reference only with regard to this "navigation" representation in connection with rejection of independent claims 1, 19 and 27, Applicant respectfully submits that Lungren is no longer relevant to the subject matter of these independent claims.



Applicant additionally observes that each of the pending independent claims 1, 19 and 27 now each include elements substantially similar or identical to the following:

describing, within ones of a plurality of data objects, functions defining relationships between said ones of said plurality of data objects and other of said plurality of data objects.


Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited references or other known prior art describes or suggests that the data objects of a project management tree include functions defining relationships between ones of such data objects and other of such data objects. This aspect of the present invention is described by the present specification at, for example, page 34, lines 10-16.

It is further respectfully submitted that that none of the cited references or other known prior art describes or suggests either of the following recitations, which also appear in similar or identical for in each of the pending independent claims:

receiving a customized home page in accordance with a user identifier provided to a project management server from a remote location, wherein the customized home page includes one or more projects associated with the at least one of the users in accordance with the user roles;

interfacing with the first project by viewing objects within the first of said project management trees in accordance with the user roles.

With regard to the recitation of a "customized home page", the Examiner has previously identified col. 1, lines 7-18 of Deinhart as being relevant. Applicant has reviewed this section of Deinhart, and has found no mention of either a "home page" or any discussion of how the same or other interface could be customized for a particular user. Similarly, although the Examiner has cited col. 7, lines 16-30 in connection with the provision of a user identifier to a project management server from a remote location, Applicant is unable to discern any reference to provision of a "user identifier" or the like to any type of server. Finally, the Examiner has noted that the "interfacing" recitation described above is described by Deinhart col. 7, lines 19-21. Applicant acknowledges that Deinhart describes, with reference to FIG. 2A, the association of tasks with users and the requirement that each task requires a set of competencies capable of being viewed as a set of specific access rights to a set of objects 4 necessary to carry out that task. However, Deinhart does not describe or suggest that the objects 4 form part of a project tree, as present claimed. Applicant observes that in this regard the objects 4 depicted in FIG. 1



appear to be completely unrelated and discrete entities, and lack any mutual relationship necessary to define a project tree.

Applicant thus respectfully requests reconsideration of the patentability of pending independent claims 1, 19 and 27 in view of the amendments herein and arguments set forth above. As the remainder of the claims in the present application dependent from these independent claims, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding rejections of these claims as well.

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments made herein prior to further examination of the above-identified application. The undersigned would of course be available to discuss the present application with the Examiner if, in the opinion of the Examiner, such a discussion could lead to resolution of any outstanding issues.

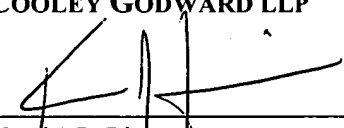
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16, 1.17, and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 03-3117.

Dated: March 18, 2004

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